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ACTS OF CONGRESS

RELATING TO THE

U.S.

BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS,

AND

BY-LAWS OF THE BOARD.

U. S. A.
CITY OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1875.

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J. S. R. Mar. 7, '02.

NEW YORK, *April* 28, 1875.

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At a meeting of the Board of Indian Commissioners,

On motion of Commissioner Kingsley, it was

Ordered, That the Secretary cause to be printed the By-Laws, with the various Acts of Congress creating the Board and defining its duties.

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ACTS OF CONGRESS

RELATING TO

THE BOARD OF INIDAN COMMISSIONERS.

FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION, 1869.

SEC. [4.] *And be it further enacted*, That there be appropriated the further sum of two millions of dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to enable the President to maintain the peace among and with the various tribes, bands, and parties of Indians, and to promote civilization among said Indians, bring them, where practicable, upon reservations, relieve their necessities, and encourage their efforts at self-support; a report of all expenditures under this appropriation to be made in detail to Congress in December next; and for the purpose of enabling the President to execute the powers conferred by this act, he is hereby authorized, at his discretion, to organize a board of commissioners, to consist of not more than ten persons, to be selected by him from men eminent for their intelligence and philanthropy, to serve without pecuniary compensation, who may, under his direction, exercise joint control with the Secretary of the Interior over the disbursement of the appropriations made by this act or any part thereof that the President may designate; and to pay the necessary expenses of transportation, subsistence, and clerk hire of said commissioners while actually engaged in said service, there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary.

* * * * * *

Approved April 10, 1869.

FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION, 1870.

SEC. [3.] *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of the Interior shall so exercise the discretion vested in him by this act as to encourage able-bodied Indians in habits of industry and peace; and the commission of citizens serving without pay, appointed by the President under the provisions of the fourth section of the act of April ten, eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, is hereby continued so long as the appropriation heretofore made for their expenses shall last.

And it shall be the duty of said commissioners to supervise all expenditures of money appropriated for the benefit of Indians in the United States, and to inspect all goods purchased for said Indians in connection with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, whose duty it shall be to consult said commission in making purchases of such goods; and provided that the said commission shall have power to appoint one of its number as secretary, with such reasonable compensation as they may designate; and the sum of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars is hereby appropriated for the payment of salaries of superintendents and agents authorized by law.

* * * * * *

Approved July 15, 1870.

FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS, THIRD SESSION, 1871.

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the expenses of the commission of citizens serving without pay, appointed by the President under the provisions of the fourth section of the act of April ten, eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars; and said commission is hereby continued with the powers and duties heretofore provided by law: *Provided*, That hereafter no payments shall be made by any officer of the United States

to contractors for goods or supplies of any sort furnished to the Indians, or for the transportation thereon, under or by virtue of any contract entered into with the Interior Department, or any branch thereof, on the receipts or certificates of the Indian agents or superintendents for such supplies, goods, transportation, buildings, or machinery, beyond fifty per cent. of the amount due, until the accounts and vouchers shall have been submitted to the Executive Committee of the Board of Commissioners appointed by the President of the United States, and organized under the provisions of the fourth section of the act of April tenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, and the third section of the act approved April [July] fifteenth, eighteen hundred and seventy, for examination, revisal, and approval; and it shall be the duty of said Board of Commissioners, without unnecessary delay, to forward said accounts and vouchers so submitted to them to the Secretary of the Interior, with the reasons for their approval or disapproval of the same, in whole or in part, attached thereto; and said Secretary shall have power to sustain, set aside, or modify the action of said board, and cause payment to be made or withheld as he may determine.

* * * * * *

Approved March 3, 1871.

FORTY-SECOND CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION, 1872.

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the expenses of the commission of citizens serving without pay, appointed by the President under the provisions of the fourth section of the act of April tenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars; and said commission is hereby continued with the powers and duties heretofore provided by law: *Provided*, That any member of the Board of Indian Commissioners is hereby empow-

ered to investigate all contracts, expenditures, and accounts in connection with the Indian service, and shall have access to all books and papers relating thereto in any Government office; but the examination of vouchers and accounts by the Executive Committee of said Board shall not be a prerequisite of payment.

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Approved May 29, 1872.

FORTY-SECOND CONGRESS, THIRD SESSION, 1873.

Provided, That the commission of citizens serving without pay, appointed by the President under the provisions of the fourth section of the act of April tenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, is hereby continued with the powers and duties heretofore provided by law.

* * * * * *

Approved February 14, 1873.

FORTY-THIRD CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION, 1874.

SEC. [2.] That the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the expenses of the commission of citizens serving without compensation, appointed by the President under the provisions of the fourth section of the act of April tenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, is hereby appropriated; and said Board of Indian Commissioners is hereby continued with all the powers and duties conferred and imposed by existing laws. But nothing herein provided shall be construed to supersede or interfere with the duty heretofore imposed upon said Board of Commissioners to visit Indian agencies and inspect the vouchers, books, and papers thereof.

* * * * * *

Approved June 22, 1874.

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the expenses of the commission of citizens serving without compensation, appointed by the President under the provisions of the fourth section of the act of April tenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, fifteen thousand dollars.

Approved March 3, 1875.

BY-LAWS

FOR THE

GOVERNMENT OF THE BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS.

Article I.

Regular meetings of the Board shall be held in January, April, July, and November in each year, on the second Wednesday of each month. Special meetings may be called whenever the Chairman shall deem it necessary.

Article II.

At the regular meeting in January of each year a Chairman and a Secretary shall be chosen; also a Purchasing Committee, to consist of four members of the Board, and an Executive Committee, to consist of three members of the Board.

All officers and committees provided for in this Article to be chosen by ballot.

Article III.

A majority of all the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Article IV.

It shall be the duty of the Chairman to preside at all meetings of the Board, and he shall be, *ex officio*, a member of the Standing Committees. In his absence a temporary Chairman may be elected.

Article V.

The Secretary shall give members of the Board at least twelve days' notice of each regular Board meeting. Special meetings may be called on shorter notice.

He shall keep full and accurate minutes of all meetings of the Board and of the Executive Committee, prepare the annual report, and submit a proof of the same to members previous to said meeting in January.

Article VI.

It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to carefully examine into all bills presented for its approval, with the vouchers for the same; and the said Committee must be unanimously satisfied as to the correctness of all details, or withhold its approval; any bills not approved by said Committee must be reported to the Board at its next meeting.

The Committee shall also report at the annual meeting in January all bills approved during the previous year.

Contracts and purchases made by Agents or the Department, not under the supervision of the Board, shall be reported at each regular meeting.

The Executive Committee shall meet monthly for the transaction of its business. In case of a sudden emergency requiring immediate action, when there is not time to convene the Board, the Executive Committee may be convened and act for the Board, which action must be reported for approval to the next meeting of the Board.

Article VII.

The Purchasing Committee must superintend all purchases of goods required for the Indian Department, and contracts for transportation, and must take all necessary precaution to insure the Government against any fraud or peculation, any overcharge for goods, or against any deception by reason of delivery of goods inferior to sample. It shall also be the duty of

the Committee to have the goods properly examined before the shipment of the same.

The Committee shall report to the Board at each regular meeting the work performed during the previous quarter; also render its annual statement in January.

Article VIII.

Members of the Commission, while traveling to and from meetings of the Board, and while detained from home by Board and Committee meetings, while on tours of observation, or visiting Agencies, shall be entitled to receive their necessary expenses of transportation and subsistence. But no allowance whatever shall be made to members of the Commission when traveling among Agencies without the special direction of the Board.

Article IX.

These By-Laws shall not be altered or amended except at a regular meeting, and after one month's previous notice, and then only by a two-thirds vote.

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